<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 5, 2006. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 12, 15 and 26 to 35 have been cancelled, and Claims 36 to 59 have been newly added herein. Claims 36, 40, 41, 44, 48, 49, 52, 56 and 57 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2004/0061887 (Murashima). Claims 2, 8, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0016259 (Otokita). Claims 26, 30, 31 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,775,025 (Robinson). Claims 3, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murashima in view of Otokita. Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murashima in view of Otokita and U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0180822 (Aritomi). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Murashima in view of Aritomi. Claims 27 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Robinson in view of U.S. Published Appln. No. 2003/0202199 (Carter). Claims 28, 29, 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Robinson in view of Otokita.

Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 12, 15 and 26 to 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly-added independent Claim 44 defines an information processing method executed by an information processing apparatus connected to a printer having a storage unit for storing a print setting included in received printing data and a printing unit for printing the received printing data. The method comprises a generation step of generating printing data, and an acquisition step of acquiring the print setting stored in the

storage unit. The method also comprises a determination step of determining whether or not the print setting acquired in the acquisition step agrees with a print setting designated in the printing data that is generated in the generation step, and a processing step of transmitting the generated printing data if agreement is determined in the determination step, and alerting if non-agreement is determined in the determination step.

Newly-added independent Claims 36 and 52 are apparatus and program claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the method of Claim 44.

The cited references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 36, 44 and 52, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of acquiring a print setting included in received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the acquired print setting agrees with a print setting designated in generated printing data.

In entering the rejection of Claim 26, the Office Action contends that Robinson discloses acquiring a previous setting previously utilized from the printer, and comparing a current setting of print data to be transmitted and the previous set value. (Office Action, page 4). Robinson is directed to an image reproduction system in which "a preferred printing machine records information about conditions of the machine while carrying out a printing request." (column 7, lines 5 to 7 of Robinson). Specifically, rastor input processor 102 of printer 3 receives optical signals and converts the signals into preprocessed image data 115. (column 4, lines 43 to 45). Preprocessed image data 115 is processed and printed by printer 3, and preprocessed image data 115 is stored in a data structure 50. (column 4, lines 51 to 67). Also stored in data structure 50 are "various time variant parameters, of the particular printing system 3 used to print the job" (column 5, lines 1 to 2), such as a time that the tone reproduction transform 118 was generated by

printer 3, the darkness setting 111 of the printer 3, and the screen version number 114 of the halftone screen 122 of printer 3.

Thus, while Robinson may disclose certain parameters of printer 3 are stored, Robinson is not seen to disclose a print setting included in received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer. Accordingly, Robinson is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring a print setting included in received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer.

Furthermore, Robinson discloses that "before carrying out another printing request, the printing machine compares the conditions of a machine, to satisfy the next printing request, to the recorded information". (column 7, lines 11 to 14). Specifically, when Robinson's user selects a printing system to reprint a job corresponding to a job ID, Robinson's system fetches data structure 50 and compares the stored parameters of the first printing system to the parameters of the selected printing system. (See column 5, lines 23 to 62).

Accordingly, while Robinson may disclose fetching parameters of a first printing system and comparing them with the parameters of a selected printing system, Robinson is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring a print setting included in received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the acquired print setting agrees with a print setting designated in generated printing data.

Otokita discloses a printer in which is installed roll paper having a roll-paper memory storing data relating to the roll paper. (See paragraphs 0047, 0059 to 0060 and 0101 of Otokita). Otokita further discloses that this roll-paper data can be read out by a printer driver. (See paragraphs 0047, 0084 and 0103). However, Otokita is not seen to disclose or to suggest a print setting included in received printing data and stored in a

storage unit of a printer, much less disclose or suggest acquiring a print setting included in received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the acquired print setting agrees with a print setting designated in generated printing data.

The remaining cited references are not seen to cure the deficiencies of Robinson and Otokita, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 36, 44 and 52 are believed to be allowable.

Newly-added independent Claim 48 defines an information processing method executed by an information processing apparatus connected to a printer having a reception unit for receiving printing data, a determination unit for determining a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever based on the received printing data, and a storage unit for storing the determined position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever. The method comprises an acquisition step of acquiring the determined position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever stored in said storage unit, and a determination step of determining whether or not the position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever acquired in said acquisition step agrees with a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever suitable for a type of paper designated in a printing operation by an operator. The method also comprises a processing step of transmitting printing data corresponding to the printing operation if agreement is determined in said determination step, and displaying a message if non-agreement is determined in said determination step.

Newly-added independent Claims 40 and 56 are apparatus and program claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the method of Claim 48.

The cited references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 40, 48 and 56, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest

at least the features of acquiring a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever determined based on received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the acquired position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever agrees with a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever suitable for a type of paper designated in a printing operation by an operator.

As discussed above, Robinson may disclose certain parameters of printer 3 are stored. However, Robinson's parameters of printer 3 are not seen to be determined based on received printing data. Accordingly, Robinson is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever determined based on received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer. Further, as discussed above, Robinson may disclose fetching the parameters of the first printing system and comparing them with the parameters of a selected printing system. However, Robinson is not seen to disclose or to suggest determining whether or not the acquired position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever agrees with a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever suitable for a type of paper designated in a printing operation by an operator.

As discussed above, Otokita may disclose reading out roll-paper data stored in a roll-paper memory. However, Otokita is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever determined based on received printing data and stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the acquired position of the paper-clearance adjusting lever agrees with a position of a paper-clearance adjusting lever suitable for a type of paper designated in a printing operation by an operator.

The remaining cited references are not seen to cure the deficiencies of Robinson and Otokita, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 40, 48 and 56 are believed to be allowable.

Newly-added independent Claim 49 defines an information processing method executed by an information processing apparatus connected to a printer having a storage unit for storing a type of media and a printing unit for printing received printing data. The method comprises an acquisition step of acquiring a type of media designated in previous print processing, which is stored in the storage unit, and a determination step of determining whether or not the type of media acquired in said acquisition step agrees with a type of media designated in a printing operation by a user. The method also comprises a processing step of transmitting printing data corresponding to the printing operation if agreement is determined in said determination step, displaying a message if non-agreement is determined in said determination step, and transmitting the printing data corresponding to the printing operation and a confirmation printing command if confirmation printing is designated in response to the message.

Newly-added independent Claims 41 and 57 are apparatus and program claims, respectively, that correspond generally to the method of Claim 49.

The cited references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 41, 49 and 57, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of acquiring a type of media designated in previous print processing, which is stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the type of media acquired agrees with a type of media designated in a printing operation by a user.

As discussed above, Robinson may disclose storing "various time variant parameters, of the particular printing system 3 used to print the job", such as a time that the

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tone reproduction transform 118 was generated by printer 3, the darkness setting 111 of the printer 3, and the screen version number 114 of the halftone screen 122 of printer 3. Further, as discussed above, in the reprinting operation Robinson's user selects a printing system to reprint a job corresponding to a job ID. However, Robinson is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring a type of media designated in previous print processing, which is stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the type of media acquired agrees with a type of media designated in a printing operation by a user.

As discussed above, Otokita may disclose reading out roll-paper data stored in a roll-paper memory. However, Otokita is not seen to disclose or to suggest acquiring a type of media designated in previous print processing, which is stored in a storage unit of a printer, and determining whether or not the type of media acquired agrees with a type of media designated in a printing operation by a user.
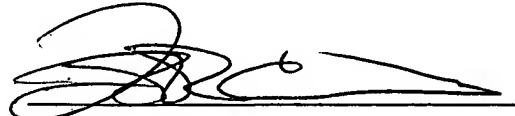
The remaining cited references are not seen to cure the deficiencies of Robinson and Otokita, either alone or in any permissible combination. Accordingly, independent Claims 41, 49 and 57 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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